

IN MILAN

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF MILAN, NEW YORK • VOL. 2 • DECEMBER 2006

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK



Greetings. Season's Greetings, that is. As winter approaches your public officials are busy as ever. It's our town's natural environment and beauty that shape our work. People love Milan, so how to protect it is the number one question.

The Board has proposed significant laws (Rural Space Overlay, Wetlands), which have generated much dialogue on two key questions: How can we move toward the residents' clear goal (Keep Milan Rural)? How much government is appropriate and responsible?

The proposed laws have raised the issue of property rights. I call it the fault line, where opposing views come into contact. It can be summed up this way: Should we be proactive and influence future development through local laws and regulations; or should we do nothing, trust the zoning decisions of 1975, and let individual concerns trump

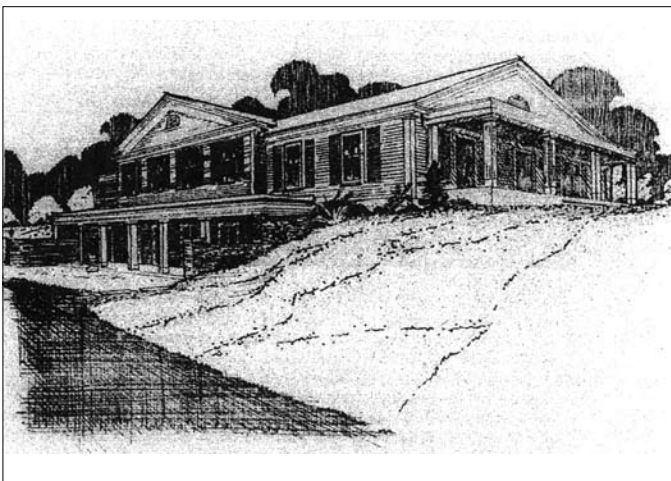
community well-being? Maybe a no-laws, no-enforcement town is better off. Or maybe there's a balance where some regulation benefits us all. Maybe proper stewardship of our town and environment can leave plenty of room for personal freedoms. Maybe small sacrifices from us all lead to overall good.

The big picture is this: Development is on the march and will some day (some say sooner, some later) reach Milan. The force of building and economic expansion is so strong it will soon be upon us (think Durst/Carvel). So we have to consider what to do. The dialogue on this is democracy at work and I'm glad to be part of it.

As we enter the winter I wish you well, and hope 2007 is a good year for all of us. We have a great town here; let's make sure it stays that way. The very best Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

— Van Talmage, *Supervisor*

Milan's Wilcox Memorial Town Hall



1970 pen and ink drawing of Milan Town Hall by Ossie Stippa, from *Out to Milan* by Barbara Thompson, ©2006.

Milan's Town Hall was erected through the generosity of Mrs. Irene Wilcox. The architect, Charles Cooke of Poughkeepsie, brought plans to Mrs. Wilcox while she was hospitalized. On her return home she kept working for the hall, and it kept getting bigger. Her reply to one such comment was, "Well, the town will just have to grow up to it." Ground breaking took place in April of 1965 with patches of snow still lying about, and the hall's first embodiment was completed a year and a half later. It was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Wilcox's son, Frederick, on October 23, 1966.

Please visit Town Hall to see beautiful old photos of Milan retrieved from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These were collected and donated by Bill Jeffway, Chairperson of the Town Historical Committee, and are hanging throughout the main floor.

Interested in more Milan history? Visit www.milan-ny.gov

ISSUES Before the Town

Updates from April Newsletter

(Information current as of December 1)

Pine Plains Durst (Carvel) project

This project is in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) process and Carvel is preparing revisions to their initial DEIS submissions. The Pine Plains Planning Board must accept the DEIS, after which it will go to the public comment stage (probably several months from now) before a final EIS is prepared.

Gravel Mining

Milan has been sued by Red Wing Properties, Inc. The case is now before the Dutchess County Supreme Court; its decision is expected by the end of the year. A press release with further details is available on the Town Web site.

Rural Space Overlay (RSO)

The proposed RSO law is not up for a Board vote at this time. Following public comments on the first draft the Board proposed several changes; for example, a conservation easement would no longer be mandatory. An ad hoc subcommittee is studying the idea of addressing affordable housing in the RSO. A revised proposed law should be ready in mid- to late spring 2007, on which Milaners will be asked to express their opinions in public hearings.

Wetlands Law

At its December 4 workshop the Board will review and discuss the comments received in the public hearings. Because of extensive public comment, there is a strong chance there will be a new draft of the law with additional public hearings within the next couple of months.

Vending of Refreshments Law

This too will be discussed on December 4, and if the Board feels that any changes made are minor it can vote on the law at its December 11 meeting. If it believes the proposed changes are substantial, public hearings will be held on the new text. Key issues under review are the permit fee amount and what operating times the permit would allow.

New News

Route 199 Corridor

- **Mobil station.** The Town has issued a Notice of Removal to the property's owner, who has reported to the Town that any asbestos on the property has been removed as required by law, that he has a demolition permit, and that he expects the existing building to be demolished by mid-December. The owner is still before the Planning Board to obtain approval of a site plan.

- **Bar and tavern project.** In 1999, the owner of a property near Academy Hill Road applied for a permit to build a "bar and tavern with entertainment." In 2001 the Town amended the zoning code to delete "with entertainment" from permitted uses. The Zoning Board of Appeals has ruled that this amendment allows music, which the owner wants to provide. The application is now with the Planning Board. There will be a public hearing to give Town residents a chance to express their opinion on the project.

- **Highway business compliance.** The Planning Board is also working with several businesses along 199 to help them come into compliance with Town zoning rules.

Cell Tower

Nextel has an application before the Planning Board to put a cell tower on Briggs Mountain on Academy Hill Road. The Planning Board is examining whether Nextel's needs can be met by using an existing microwave tower on Woody Row Road, currently being used by Milan Fire and Rescue.



The RoeJan as it flows through Milan

Want an update on any of these important issues? Visit www.milan-ny.gov

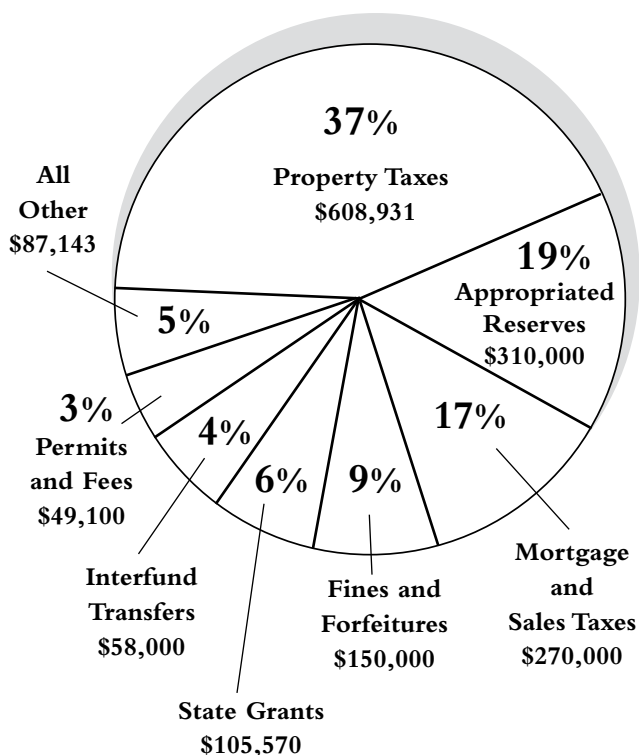
Town Finances

The Board passed the Town's 2007 budget of \$1.638 million (not counting the fire district) at its November 13 meeting. Next year's budget necessitates a rise of about 4% in property owners' bills for town and fire taxes, roughly the same level as inflation.

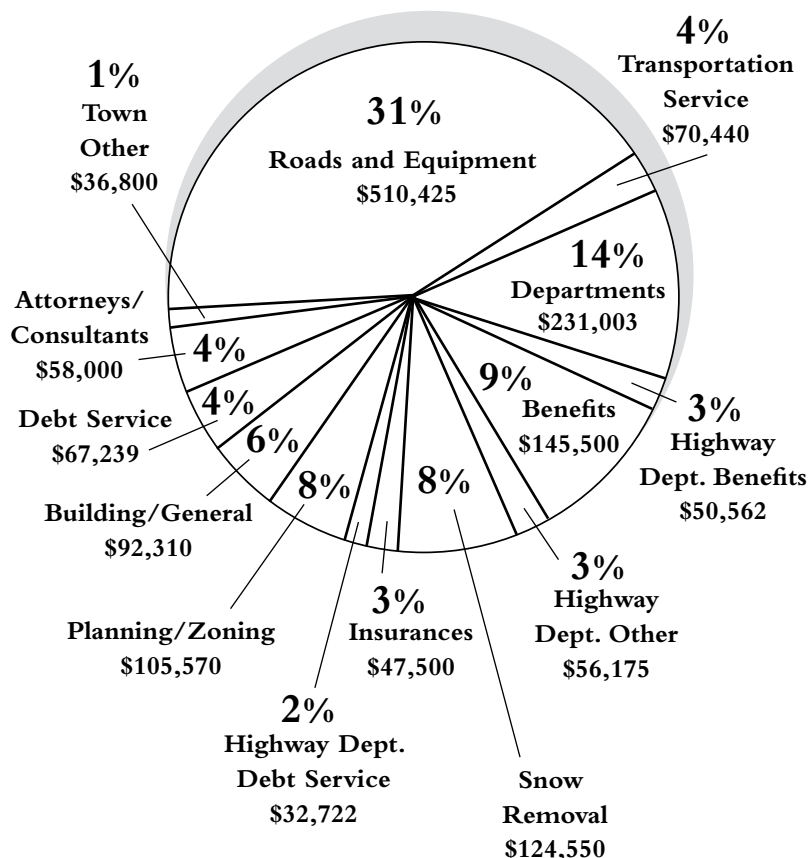
Key areas of increase were added funds for necessary road

maintenance, higher legal costs related to implementing the Comprehensive Plan, creation of a full-time position in the Planning and Zoning Office, and funds for more weekday availability of the Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer to meet the greater public demand for their services.

2007 Milan Revenues: \$1,638,726



2007 Milan Expenditures: \$1,638,726

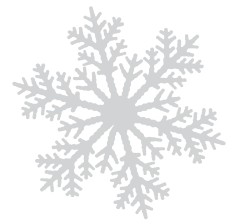


Reminder: STAR Rebate Deadline

January 20, 2007 is the deadline for all property owners to apply for a STAR rebate. Please go to the town website, www.milan-ny.gov for more details.

Want an in-depth explanation of the budget? Visit www.milan-ny.gov

MILAN OFFICES: A Closer Look



Milan's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

The **Milan Planning Board** is appointed by the Town Board and is authorized to review, approve or deny applications for subdivision of land, site plans, and special use permits. The Planning Board must ensure that a proposed project conforms to the Milan Comprehensive Plan, the Greenway Guidelines, and all applicable laws at each level of government: Milan (i.e. zoning and subdivision codes); Dutchess County (i.e. health, DPW and E911); state (i.e. NYS Town Law, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)); and federal (i.e. wetlands). The Planning Board receives professional assistance in processing applications from the Town Planner, the Town Engineer, and the Planning Board Attorney. The applicant pays for these services so there is no cost to the Town.

The Planning Board has regular open meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The current chairperson of the Planning Board is Lauren Kingman.

The Milan Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is also appointed by the Town Board. The ZBA oversees proper

zoning and zoning enforcement, thus playing a key role in preserving our community and its environment. Zoning protects us all from possible misuses of buildings and land that might negatively affect our neighborhood and quality of life. The most important procedure to remember is to always check with the Building Department before making any structural or use changes to your property. Some of the common home improvements requiring a permit are pre-made sheds, fencing, pools, decks, and additions to existing structures. If your structure or land use requires a variance, the ZBA will ask that you fill out an application and pay a filing fee. You will be put on the next month's agenda for a meeting, where you will explain your application. At that time, your adjacent neighbors will be notified of your application for a variance and the date of the public hearing, which will take place the following month.

The ZBA has regular open meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The current chairperson of the ZBA is Jack Grumet.

Veterans Committee

Milan's **Veterans Committee** is made up of volunteers who live in Town. In 2006, one of the Committee's main goals was to make improvements to the site of the Veterans' Memorial and its plaque displaying the Veterans' Honor Roll. The current key criterion for recognition on the Honor Roll is anyone who served in combat or overseas. The Memorial is proudly situated on the lawn in front of the Town Hall, and the Committee welcomes all visitors to come and pay their respects to those who served to protect our country.

The Veterans Committee led this year's observances of Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In honor of our departed vets, there was a ceremony on May 29th to lower the colors at dusk, raise new colors on Memorial Day at 8:00am, and then lower the flag to half-staff. The Committee also marched in the Red Hook parade, carrying the Town of Milan banner behind the Army National Guard's color guard. Stanley Zawartnicki, a WWII vet, and his wife rode in the parade as special guests. In observance of Veterans Day, there was a ceremony at the Town Hall Memorial on 11/11 at 11:11am. Many town residents participated and honored our vets.

The Veterans Committee meets regularly. If you would like to join, get more information, or if you or someone you know meet the criteria and would like to be recognized on the Honor Roll, please contact the Committee. The veteran must submit a DD214 to Dick Barrett or Tim Williams, Co-chairpersons, or Frank Tanzosch.



After the awards ceremony on Veteran's Day

Need more information? Visit www.milan-ny.gov

MILAN OFFICES: A Closer Look

Conservation Advisory Council

Milan's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is made up of volunteers appointed by the Board to help protect our natural resources. The CAC is creating a Natural Resource Inventory evaluating all Milan's natural resources: surface and ground water, soil, physical geography, vegetation, wildlife, and land use.

The CAC reviews developers' habitat assessment reports; advises the Planning Board on the environmental impact of proposed subdivisions and large building projects; and applies for environmental preservation grants, such as the money we received from the Hudson River Estuary Program to assess Milan's water resources.

CAC members were central to drafting Milan's new Wetlands Protection Law. The key aim of the law is to safeguard our drinking water. The law is designed

to protect public health and safety and preserve water quality and the environment by protecting wetlands, streams, ponds, and vernal pools from the damaging effects of flooding, erosion and pollution. Current federal and state regulations only protect large wetlands, don't always provide buffer zones around wetlands, and don't provide adequate protection for other water resources such as streams and lakes. Milan's proposed law establishes a procedure for an independent wetlands expert to review subdivisions and building permits. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation strongly encourages towns to create their own local water protection laws.

The current Co-chairpersons of the CAC are Frank Margiotta and Sheila Buff.

Milan Recreation Committee

For decades, a changing group of three or four volunteers have been the Milan Recreation Committee. Over the years they have created elaborate haunted houses in the Town Hall for Milan's kids at Halloween; they have colored and hidden hundreds of eggs and read stories with the Easter Bunny; and they've scripted amazing holiday plays and visits from Santa. In between, they've done magic shows and sponsored special events; and monthly they hold Kids' Night and Teens' Night.

In the past five years, upgrading Milan's Rec Park has been a major priority. Working with the Little League parents and other volunteers, the ball field complex was refurbished; and working with local Eagle Scouts, many other park projects were also completed (new bleachers, a welcome sign and information kiosk, and a soon to be completed concession stand). The Eagle Scouts continue to work on walking trails in the park. And the new playground, completed this spring, provides a climbing wall, a giant slide, a merry-go-round, swings, and toys for kids.

Every fall, the Rec Committee coordinates Milan's Community Day. This year's event was held on October 7th and included many family activities, with contests, live shows, vendors and animals for viewing and petting. The hit of this year's Community Day was the car show.

Milan parents are encouraged to take an active part in the Rec Committee. Stop by the Town Hall with your kids and see what you can do and how your kids can benefit. The Committee would welcome your help.

After years of hard work and much accomplished, Jackie Reynolds, the current Chairperson of the Rec Committee, will be stepping down after this year. If you are interested in being considered as the next lead for the Committee, please contact Van Talmage or one of the Town Board members at Town Hall. Many thanks to Jackie!



Everyone has fun on Community Day...



Want to get involved? Visit www.milan-ny.gov

Milan Seniors

The **Milan Seniors** are a group of active and involved people who plan events and trips and make sure to keep in touch with fellow members.

The Seniors schedule at least six trips a year, mostly during the spring, summer and fall months. Some recent outings have included Foxwoods Casino and Indian Museum, Westchester Dinner Theater, the New

York Botanical Gardens, and a boat trip on the Hudson River to West Point. The Seniors also schedule many local events, such as shows at the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie and at the Performing Arts Center in Rhinebeck, and the annual Senior Picnic at Wilcox Park. Trips are accessible (and affordable!).

Besides trips, Milan Seniors also schedule events throughout the year at the Milan Town Hall. Past years have included the annual Holiday party in December, and a recent auction and tag sale to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, to name a couple. The Seniors have also arranged for a local farmer to deliver fresh veggies for sale at Town Hall every Tuesday throughout the growing season.

Milan Seniors welcomes new members and encourages all to offer suggestions at their regular meetings. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Herlihy, president (845-876-2664) or Judi Gelardi (845-758-8453). Or just stop by any Tuesday morning at 11:30 and check them out!

Milan: Our Community

Under the direction of the Town Board, the Communications Committee has assembled a Welcome Package, available on the Town's website (www.milan-ny.gov) and at Town Hall. Whether you're a long-standing resident or a newcomer, we hope the material gives you an understanding of our community, some useful information about how it works, and suggests ways you can join the spirit.

Milan Rescue Squad: Won't You Join?

A critical shortage of personnel is straining the ability of the Milan Rescue Squad to respond to emergencies in our community. We urgently need to strengthen our capability in Milan. Why?

- **Rapid Response.** When a call goes out, our members can be on the scene in minutes to provide life-saving aid.
- **Critical Incidents.** An auto accident or bus crash might involve a dozen patients or more. We need a squad with enough people to deal with major emergencies.
- **Disaster Preparedness.** It could be a flu pandemic, a severe snow storm, or something much worse. The time to prepare for a disaster is long before it happens.

Milan residents have always been generous with their financial support. But resources and equipment are of no use without people. We need you to JOIN US.

There are many ways in which you can get involved. We need drivers for the ambulance — this requires only CPR training. If becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) isn't feasible, you can take a shorter course to become a Certified First Responder.

We provide all training. We will work around your schedule and will appreciate your contribution, no matter how much time you can devote. You need no experience to get started. Senior citizens are welcome and

young people can start to get involved at age 16. Joining the squad is a great way to build character and learn skills.

We won't kid you. Rescue work can be demanding, and none of us wants to get out of bed at three in the morning to rush to an emergency. Yet there are few types of volunteer activities that provide the same sense of accomplishment. To work with a team of your neighbors to save another person's life is an experience that can genuinely enrich your own.

For information about volunteer opportunities with the rescue squad, call Jack Kelly at 845-756-2913. There's no obligation.



Auto extrication demonstration at Community Day

Want to volunteer for fire or rescue squad? Visit www.milanfirerescue.org

MILAN Town Officials

Phone: 845-758-5133 General Information ext. 42
Fax: 845-758-0445 Web site www.milan-ny.gov



Supervisor

Van Talmage

ext. 28
supervisor@ci.milan.ny.us

Town Council

ext. 35



Pauline
Combe-Clark



Al
LoBrutto



Diane
May



Ross
Williams



Clerk

Catherine Gill

townclerk@ci.milan.ny

ext. 26

Office Hours: M, W, F, 9:00am-4:00pm

Justices

845-758-6960

court@ci.milan.ny.us



Frank Christensen



Kenneth J. Kremenick

Court Clerk's Hours: M-W, F, 9:00am-1:00pm



Tax Assessor

William J. Gallagher

Office Hours: M-W, F, 9:00am-3:00pm

ext. 29
assessor@ci.milan.ny.gov

Tax Collector

845-758-8474

Pamela Johnson



Building Inspector

James Modafferi

Office Hours: Tu, Th, 5:30pm – 8:30pm;

First Saturday of every month, 9:00-11:00am

ext. 34

Members of the Milan Communications Committee, who create this newsletter, are: Chairperson, Evelyn Bartin; Designer, Joy Taylor; Copy Editor, Howard Clark; Diane May; Deborah Bergman; Van Talmage.

Planning Board Chairperson

ext. 21

Lauren Kingman

Office Hours: Tu, Th, 9am-1pm



Zoning Board of Appeals

ext. 21

Chairperson

zoning@ci.milan.ny.us

Jack Grumet

Office Hours: Tu, Th, 9am-1pm



Conservation Advisory Council

Co-Chairpersons

ext. 21

Frank Margiotta (left), Sheila Buff



Zoning Enforcement

ext. 41

Gary Beck, Jr.



Fire/Rescue Chief

Emergencies: 911

Office: 845-758-9911

Jeff Galm

Highway Superintendent

845-758-5164

highway@ci.milan.ny.us

Glenn Butler



Dog Control

845-756-4136

Jim Rielly



Recreation Committee

ext. 36

Chairperson

Jacqueline Reynolds



Veterans Committee

ext. 36

Co-Chairpersons

Dick Barrett (left), Tim Williams

Historical Committee

ext. 36

Chairperson

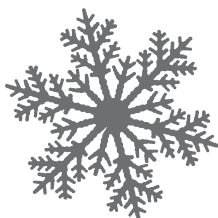
Bill Jeffway



Seniors Club President

ext. 57

Mary Ellen Herlihy



Calendar of Events

All events held at Wilcox Memorial Town Hall. All dates and times subject to change. Please check the web site for the latest information.

Regular Meetings of Boards

Town Board Workshop	First Monday of each month	7:00pm
Town Board	Second Monday of each month	7:00pm
Planning Board	First Wednesday of each month	7:00pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Third Monday of each month	7:00pm

Regular Meetings of Committees and Groups

Recreation Committee	First Tuesday of each month	7:00pm
Senior Social Club Lunch/Meeting	First Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon
Teen Nite	Second Friday of each month	6:30pm
Rescue Squad Pancake Breakfast	Third Sunday of each month (Sept.–May)	8:00am
Kids' Nite (Grades 3, 4, 5)	Third Friday of each month	6:30pm
Mommy & Me	Every Friday of each month	10:00am

For information on Special Events throughout the season and the year, please be sure to check the Town's website, **www.milan-ny.gov**, or call the Special Announcements line at Town Hall (845-758-5133, ext. 42)



THE COST OF THIS NEWSLETTER

In Milan is designed and produced on a totally volunteer basis by the Town's Communications Committee under the direction of the Town Board. In their working lives, most of the Committee's members are professional writers, copy editors and artists, and they are pleased to share their expertise with the Town for free. The only costs incurred to send you *In Milan* are printing and postage. Like the previous April mailing, this edition has netted out to approximately 76 cents per household.

What happened at an important meeting? Visit www.milan-ny.gov